

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20-23 stand rejected. Claims 4, 19, 24 and 25 are objected to. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 17, 21, and 22 are amended, no new subject matter is present. New claims 26-29 are added, no new subject matter is present. Claims 1-29 are now pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

In the Specification

The specification was amended at page 4, lines 14-16 to correct a clerical error. Support for this amendment is found in the original application at page 5, lines 3-5, and FIG. 5, among other places.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,969,990 to Arase (hereafter, 'Arase'). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Regarding claim 1, it is amended to recite, *inter alia*, biasing a first select line to a first voltage during a bit line setup operation, where the second voltage is lower than the first voltage. Claim 1 also recites, *inter alia*, biasing the first select line to a third voltage between the first voltage and the second voltage during a string select line setup operation after the bit line setup operation. Support for these amendments is found in the original application, among other places, at FIG. 5; page 5, lines 3-5; and original claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that the claimed first select line corresponds to S11 in FIG. 2 of Arase. FIG. 6F of Arase is a timing chart illustrating the operation of S11 (column 13, lines 5-7). As shown in FIG. 6F, selection gate S11 is supplied either with a pass voltage V_{pass} (column 13, lines 16-19) or the power supply voltage V_{cc} (column 13, lines 46-49). Therefore, Arase's select line S11 alternates between one of only two voltages. This is contrary to the recited limitation of biasing the first select line to a third voltage between the first voltage and the second voltage. For at least the reason, Arase does not anticipate claim 1. By virtue of the dependence upon claim 1, claims 2-15 are unanticipated by Arase for at least the same reason.

Claim 2 was amended to correct a clerical error. No new subject matter was added. Support for this amendment is found in the original application at page 5, lines 3-5, and FIG. 5, among other places. Claims 6 and 7 were amended for consistency with claim 1.

Regarding claim 16, it is similar to claim 1 in that it recites, *inter alia*, biasing the first select line to a third voltage that is between the first voltage and the second voltage. As

previously explained with respect to claim 1, line S11 of Arase FIG. 6 does not disclose this limitation. Consequently, claim 16 is not anticipated by Arase for at least the same reason as claim 1. By virtue of their dependence upon claim 16, claims 17-20 are also unanticipated by Arase for at least the same reason.

Claim 17 was amended to correct a clerical error. No new subject matter was added. Support for this amendment is found in the original application at page 5, lines 3-5, and FIG. 5, among other places.

Regarding claim 21, it is amended to recite, *inter alia*, a means for controlling potentials of the select lines and the word lines in accordance with a bit line setup period, string select line setup period, a program period, and a discharge period of a program cycle. Support for this amendment is found in the original application at page 5, lines 3-5, and FIG. 5, among other places.

Claim 21 also recites wherein the control means biases the string select line to the first voltage during the bit line setup period and to a third voltage between the first and second voltages during the string select line setup and program periods. This is similar to the limitation discussed previously with regard to claims 1 and 16. Consequently, Arase does not anticipate claim 21 for at least the same reason as claims 1 and 16. By virtue of their dependence upon claim 21, claims 22-25 are also unanticipated by Arase for at least the same reason.

Claim 22 was amended to correct a clerical error. No new subject matter was added. Support for this amendment is found in the original application at page 5, lines 3-5, and FIG. 5, among other places.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 4, 19, 24 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In keeping with the Examiner's suggestion, new claims 26-29 are added.

Claim 26 is in independent form and contains all the limitations of original claim 4 and its base (claim 1).

Claim 27 is in independent form and contains all the limitations of original claim 19 and its base (claim 16).

Claim 28 is in independent form and contains all the limitations of original claim 24 and its base (claim 21).

Claim 29 is in independent form and contains all the limitations of original claim 25 and its base (claim 21)

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-29 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

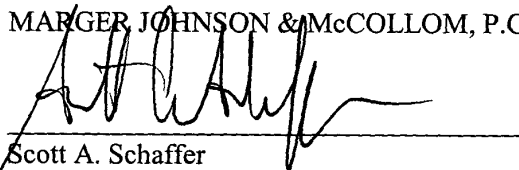
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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott A. Schaffer', is written over a horizontal line.

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